

Wildlife Trust of India(WTI) announces Wildlife Crime Control Scholarships for students at the first Ashok Kumar Memorial National Wildlife Law and Enforcement Conference, March 11 and 12 2019

Mr Vivek Menon, Founder, ED and CEO, Wildlife Trust of India(WTI) today announced 2 year scholarships to be given to deserving scholars who will specialise in tackling the menace of Wildlife Crime. He was speaking at the first Ashok Kumar Memorial National Wildlife Law and Enforcement Conference in Pune.

Known as the ‘Father of Wildlife Crime Control in India’, the legendary Ashok Kumar had been on the fore fronts of several significant measure that today define Wildlife Crime Control management in India. Guiding raids, institutionalising crime control, defining legal safeguards, advocating global sanctions on wildlife crime, empowering frontline staff he worked on every aspect and left no stone unturned in pursuing action and success outcomes in curbing wildlife crime. To carry his legacy forward and committed to encourage a thriving community of Wildlife Crime Control professionals, Wildlife Trust of India along with Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune INDIA in collaboration with Chair, International Master of Environmental Science Programme, University of Cologne, GERMANY and the Stetson University College of Law's Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy, USA organized **The first Ashok Kumar Memorial National Wildlife Law and Enforcement Conference in Pune, at the Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth University on 11 and 12 March 2019**

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Manmohan Singh Negi, Additional Director General of Forests (WL), Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, along with other esteem members of environment conservation practice those being Mr. Nitin Kakodkar, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden (Maharashtra), Prof. Dr. Manikrao Salunkhe, Vice Chancellor, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Prof. (Dr.) Erach Bharucha, Director, Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharti Vidyapeeth University and Mr. Vivek Menon Founder, ED & CEO, Wildlife Trust of India, New Delhi.

In his inaugural address Dr. Manmohan Singh Negi reminisced the contribution of Mr. Ashok Kumar in guiding the Supreme Court Subramanian committee that led to formation of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau(WCCB). He stressed on the need to strengthen law, implementation agencies and public involvement in wildlife crime control. Mr. Nitin Kakodkar, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden (Maharashtra) spoke about the books Mr. Ashok Kumar wrote that are still used as guides on understanding wildlife crime and legal aspects of the same. Prof. Dr. Manikrao Salunkhe, Vice Chancellor, Bharati Vidyapeeth University lauded the efforts taken by all partners in bringing together this conference.

Late Mr. Ashok Kumar’s mentee Mr Vivek Menon, Founder, ED and CEO, Wildlife Trust of India(WTI) spoke about how as a young man a phone call, followed by a meeting with Ashok Kumar changed the course of his life, from writing to leading many a conservation actions in various roles. He recalled how Ashok Kumar always inspired and mentored the young to take action; as a tribute to his earnest contribution, **Mr. Vivek Menon announced WTI scholarships in memory of Ashok Kumar that will recognise and support every year 3 young students on Masters courses related to Wildlife Law and Enforcement.** Annexure attached with details.



This was followed by very interesting sessions by Mr Vivek Menon and Mrs. Tilottama Varma, Additional Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi who spoke of trafficked wild species and the trade network rampant in India. She shared an overview of how WCCB works and data mines to control crime. She appealed for all to consider a fair perspective on human-wildlife conflict in consideration of animals who are far few as compared to the burgeoning human population. She also highlighted the need of online vigilance, for it serves a major bandwidth for the percolation of criminal activities online. We look forward to an equally enlightening and engaging session tomorrow.

Mr Vivek Menon introduced the world of Global Wildlife Trade and Trafficking, he emphasised the need to include flora along with fauna in wildlife crime control and not miss species poorly studied. He shared key drivers for the global trade and illustrated the networks and volumes of operation citing the ivory trade he has been closely monitoring.

These critical sessions were followed by many panel discussions and presentations that highlighted various aspects of Wildlife Crime Control. Exploring Legal facets and Wildlife Crime forensics, use of technology in averting crime and intervention by Indian Wildlife Crime Control Agencies.

About Wildlife Trust of India

[Wildlife Trust of India](#) (WTI) is a leading Indian nature conservation organisation committed to the service of nature. Its mission is to conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments. WTI's team of 150 dedicated professionals work towards achieving its vision of a secure natural heritage of India, in six priority landscapes, knit holistically together by nine key strategies or Big Ideas.

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